

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AUG 0 1 2017

Brendan F. Boyle P. O. Box 11545 Philadelphia, PA 19116

RE: MUR 7192

Dear Mr. Boyle:

On November 15, 2016, the Federal Election Commission notified you of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint was forwarded to you at that time.

Upon further review of the allegations contained in the complaint, the Commission, on July 27, 2017, voted to dismiss this matter. The Factual and Legal Analysis, which more fully explains the Commission's determination, is enclosed for your information.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016), effective September 1, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Wanda Brown, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely.

Jeff S. Jordan

Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1 2	FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS		
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	RESPONDENTS:	Brendan Boyle Citizens for Boyle and Lindsay F. Angerholzer a Kevin Boyle Friends of Kevin Boyle RODUCTION	MUR 7192 s treasurer
10	This matter was generated by a Complaint alleging that Brendan Boyle, U.S.		
11	Representative from Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, and his authorized Committee,		
12	Citizens for Boyle and Lindsay F. Angerholzer in her official capacity as treasurer (the		
13	"Committee"), violated the Act by soliciting funds on behalf of Kevin Boyle, Brendan Boyle's		
14	brother, a Pennsylvania state candidate and his committee, Friends of Kevin Boyle ("state committee		
15	II. FAC	TUAL AND LEGAL ANAI	LYSIS
16	The Complaint alleges that on October 30, 2016, Brendan Boyle sent an email from a		
17	Committee email address asking that recipients "donate as much as you can" to Kevin Boyle's		
18	campaign and directed contributors to the state committee's website through a link to		
19	www.votekevinboyle.com, but did not include information regarding the Act's limitations and		
20	prohibitions, or a statement that contributions are not tax deductible. ²		
21	Respondents acknowledge that Brendan Boyle sent the email requesting contributions on		
22	behalf of state candidate Kevin Boyle. ³ Further, Respondents admit that the email did not		

Compl. At 2 (Nov. 7, 2016).

Compl. at 2-3; Compl. Attach. 1. Fundraising solicitations by or on behalf of a political organization, as defined by 26 U.S.C. § 527(e), shall contain an express statement that contributions or gifts to such organizations are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. 26 U.S.C. § 6113. Although the email in question did not contain this disclaimer, it is not a violation of the Act and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

³ Resp. at 1 (Mar. 3, 2017).

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- 1 contain information regarding the Act's limitations and prohibitions. However, Respondents
- 2 also assert that it is unlikely that the email prompted prohibited or excessive contributions, and
- 3 provided sworn statements that Kevin Boyle received only \$1,170 in donations, all from
- 4 individuals, between the date of the email and the general election.⁴

The Act and Commission regulations prohibit federal candidates, federal officeholders, agents acting on their behalf, and entities that are directly or indirectly established, financed, maintained, controlled by, or acting on behalf of federal candidates or officeholders from soliciting,⁵ receiving, directing, transferring, spending, or disbursing funds in connection with an election for non-federal office, unless the funds are subject to the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of the Act."⁶

Although the Respondents admit that Brendan Boyle sent an email soliciting funds for his brother that were not limited to funds permissible under the Act, they provided sworn statements that the state committee received only \$1,170 in donations between the date of the email and the election. Given the *de minimis* amount of the contributions in question, and the information provided by the Respondents suggesting that those contributions did not violate the Act's source prohibition and amount limitations, and in furtherance of the Commission's priorities, relative to

Id. See Resp. Attach. 2, Scott Heppard Affidavit (Mar. 1, 2017). In affidavits from Lindsay F. Angerholzer, treasurer for the Committee, and Scott Heppard, volunteer campaign manager for the state committee, Kevin Boyle received only five contributions totaling \$1,170 between the date of the email and the date of the general election. Although Respondents admit that it is not possible to tell whether these five contributions were made through the electronic link in the email, Heppard avers that a review of the contributor history indicates that none of the contributors made aggregate contributions that exceeded \$2,700. Further, Heppard asserts that the five contributors had made earlier contributions to Kevin Boyle's state campaign and, therefore, had provided occupation and employer information, and had previously affirmed that their contributions were made by the individual and not by a corporation or labor union.

Solicitations include communications that provide instructions on how or where to send contributions, or identify a Web address that redirects to a page dedicated to making a contribution. 11 C.F.R. § 300.2(m)(1)(ii).

⁵² U.S.C. § 30125(e)(I)(B); 11 C.F.R. § 300.62.

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- 1 other matters pending on the Enforcement docket, the Commission exercised its prosecutorial
- 2 discretion to dismiss the allegation that Brendan Boyle and Citizens for Boyle and Lindsay F.
- 3 Angerholzer in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30125(e) and closed the file
- 4 as to all Respondents.⁷

⁷ Heckler v. Chaney, 470 U.S. 821 (1985).